

LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS AT PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

MARCH 9, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. WETMORE, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4250.]

The Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4250) to appropriate the sum of \$40,000 to the Cape Cod Pilgrims' Memorial Association, to be used in erecting at Provincetown, Mass., a suitable memorial of the landing of the Pilgrims, have had the same under consideration and report it back with an amendment, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read:

A bill to appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars as a part contribution toward the erection of a monument at Provincetown, Massachusetts, in commemoration of the landing of the Pilgrims and the signing of the Mayflower compact.

This bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in the last Congress and was favorably reported from committee. It also has the favorable report of the House Committee on the Library in the present Congress, a copy of which is attached hereto.

[House Report No. 673, Fifty-eighth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1933) making an appropriation to be used in erecting at Provincetown, Mass., a suitable memorial of the landing of the Pilgrims, beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that the title thereof be amended and that as amended the said bill do pass.

Amend the title so as to read:

"A bill to appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars as a part contribution toward the erection of a monument at Provincetown, Massachusetts, in commemoration of the landing of the Pilgrims and the signing of the Mayflower compact."

This bill appropriates \$40,000 toward the erection of a monument at Provincetown, Mass., commemorating the first landing in America of the Pilgrims and the forming of the celebrated compact in the cabin of the *Mayflower*, November 11, 1620. The embarkation of the Pilgrims upon the *Speedwell* from Delft Haven in the summer of 1620 is commemorated by a painting in the Rotunda of the Capitol. The *Speedwell*

was joined at Southampton by a larger and stancher ship, the *Mayflower*, but proving to be unseaworthy the *Speedwell* was left at Plymouth, England, and the final embarkation took place at that port, from which the *Mayflower* pursued her long voyage alone. The Pilgrims had procured patents from the Virginia Company and were intending to go to that colony. After a stormy voyage they sighted the point of Cape Cod November 10, and standing for the southward "they fell amongst dangerous shoulds and roiling breakers," and determined to "bear up againe for the Cape." The next day, November 11, the *Mayflower* rode in safety in the harbor at the extremity of the cape, now known as Provincetown. It was a good harbor, and Governor Bradford piously records that the Pilgrims "fell upon their knees & blessed y^e God of heaven, who had brought them over y^e vast & furious ocean, and delivered them from all y^e periles & miseries thereof, againe to set their feete on y^e firme and stable earth, their proper elemente."

Weary as they were of the sea, they yet performed before landing an act which will be forever memorable. Their patents were for Virginia. They had determined to settle in New England, over which the Virginia Company had no jurisdiction. Some of the "strangers" on the ship had indulged in mutinous speeches and threatened to "use their owne libertie" when they came ashore. Before landing, therefore, they signed a compact forming themselves into a body politic—a compact which constituted the germ of the civil institutions of New England and indeed of America, and which is one of the most memorable documents in the history of civil government. Dr. Edward Everett Hale declares that "the contract drawn up at Provincetown is as important as the Declaration of Independence, and is its forerunner." That scheme for the establishment of a State can not be printed too often, and as it is a model of brevity and comprehensiveness it is here given in full as it appears in Bradford's History.

"In y^e name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the lloyal subjects of our dread soveraigne Lord, King James, by y^e grace of God, of Great Britaine, Franc, & Ireland king, defender of y^e faith, &c. haveing undertaken, for y^e glorie of God, and advancemente of y^e Christian faith, and honour of our king & countrie, a voyage to plant y^e first colonie in y^e Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly & mutually in y^e presence of God, and one of another, covenant & combine our selves togeather into a civill body politick, for our better ordering & preservation & furtherance of y^e ends aforesaid; and by vertue hearof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just & equall lawes, ordinances, acts, constitutions, & offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete & convenient for y^e generall good of y^e Colonie, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness wherof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cap-Codd y^e 11. of November, in y^e year of y^e raigne of our soveraigne lord, King James, of England, France, & Ireland y^e eighteenth, and of Scotland y^e fiftie fourth. An^o: Dom. 1620."

The Pilgrims remained at Provincetown for a month before crossing Barnstable Bay to Plymouth, where the permanent settlement was made. It was at Provincetown that the first child of the colony was born and there four of the colonists died.

In view of the fact that the Government has frequently appropriated money to mark battlefields, it is confidently believed that the first landing of the Pilgrims upon this continent and the signing of the *Mayflower* compact are such signal events in the history of the United States that this Government will do well to join in commemorating them at Provincetown, where the "civill body politick" of the Pilgrims first breathed the breath of life. The Government is not expected to do this work alone. An organization of public-spirited citizens of Massachusetts has been formed, under the name of the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, and its members and others have liberally contributed toward the erection of a monument. The legislature of Massachusetts has already voted to appropriate \$25,000. The bill provides that the National Government shall contribute \$40,000 when an equal amount shall have been raised from other sources.

An excellent site for the memorial has been given by the town of Provincetown. Cape Cod is a gigantic reef, almost wholly of sand, jutting out into the sea for about 60 miles from the mainland. It sweeps first toward the east, then northward, and, from its resemblance to an uplifted arm, is often called the right arm of Massachusetts. The general level of the land is but little above the level of the sea. Near the extreme point of the cape, in the center of Provincetown, High Pole Hill, so called, is situated. It is about 100 feet high, and is one of the highest points of land upon the cape. It is proposed to erect upon its top a plain and durable column of stone at least 200 feet high. Its summit will be visible nearly 30 miles out at sea. It will be seen from the vast number of vessels sailing from Boston and other New England cities to our Southern ports, and from the route of all ships going between Boston and Europe.

The perils of navigation around the cape which led the Pilgrims to settle in New England are as great now as they were in the Pilgrims' day. The Government has expended vast sums of money to reduce these perils to a minimum, and while the prime purpose of this bill is to commemorate events of transcendent importance in the history of the nation, it will be most fitting if the commanding column which shall mark the first landing of the Pilgrims after their perilous voyage across the Atlantic may prove a welcome landmark to vessels nearing a dangerous shore and enable them to put back upon or keep their proper course.



